

ARTICLE APPROVED  
ON PAGE **B 6**

NEW YORK TIMES  
14 June 1985

# Implications of Spy Case Rippling Into 2 Other Services and NATO

By **RICHARD HALLORAN**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 13 — The implications of the spy case involving Navy secrets spread today across the Air Force and Army in the United States and American allies in Western Europe, according to spokesmen for the military services.

The commander of United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization navies in the Atlantic, Adm. Wesley McDonald, said the allied navies' communications gear might have been compromised by John A. Walker Jr., a retired Navy communications specialist who, with three others, has been charged with passing Navy secrets to the Soviet Union.

In the Air Force, a task force under Brig. Gen. Robert F. Durkin, a senior operations officer, was formed today to assess possible damage, an Air Force spokesman said.

An Army spokesman said a group of specialists were trying to determine if Army communications had been compromised because Mr. Walker might have had access to messages passed between the Army and Navy. An initial reading, the spokesman said, was that damage had been small. Both spokesmen suggested, however, that leaders of their services felt confident that their security programs were working.

## Assessment and Review

Meanwhile, the chief spokesman for the Pentagon, Michael I. Burch, said at a briefing, "As a result of the Walker case, the services are going back and looking at the point in time during which there may have been exchanges of information."

Mr. Burch, said, in response to questions: "They will assess any possible damage done and what might have been compromised during that period. Independent of that, they are all reviewing the procedures by which they handle, transmit and receive classified information." The extra precautions have been made necessary in part by John Walker's reported refusal so far to cooperate in determining breaches of security.

The Air Force and Army, their spokesmen suggested, would be looking at three questions: What might have been compromised by Mr. Walker? Were other espionage operations directed against their services? What must be done in the long run against espionage?

The services, their spokesman said, had also begun to look for ways to put into effect instructions from Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger to reduce by 10 percent the number of people with security clearances.

## Fear for NATO Communications

Admiral McDonald said that "some of our sister services that use the same type of communication equipment" may have been spied upon along with that of the United States Navy. He added: "And that applies to the alliance, in those areas where specific pieces of equipment can be compromised." Admiral McDonald spoke with European correspondents in an exchange arranged by the United States Information Agency. A transcript was made available here.

The admiral said the Walker case "is going to have an impact on how we do business day-to-day with the alliance

ships at sea, how we communicate with each other on those things that are classified. We're going to have to change those techniques as required and do things differently and it will impact on the alliance as it unfolds." He said information on the consequences of the Walker case would be exchanged with allied governments.

Admiral McDonald said antisubmarine tactics might have been compromised because of Mr. Walker's access to documents and messages, "so we will be continuing to explore other ways of prosecuting our antisubmarine warfare procedures."

## Senator Offers Death Penalty Bill

Senator Ted Stevens, Republican of Alaska, introduced legislation that would make espionage in peacetime punishable by death, as advocated by Mr. Weinberger and Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman Jr.

Mr. Stevens said at a news conference: "If there is an execution, it should be public and on television. I want the widest possible visibility of this kind of crime and to deter people who may be starting down this road. The legislation would punish those who betray their country by selling classified information to foreign governments by death. Nothing twists the honest ethic of this country more than the grasping, degenerate act of auctioning the national security."

Life imprisonment is now the penalty for peacetime espionage.

An Army spokesman said an Army team had been briefed by Naval Intelligence on what had been learned about Mr. Walker and that the Army was reviewing message traffic that he might have seen. He and his brother Arthur, a retired Navy lieutenant commander, John Walker's son Michael, a Navy yeoman, and Jerry A. Whitworth, a retired Navy radioman, are accused of espionage.

## Doubt Expressed Over Codes

But the Army spokesman said there appeared to be little likelihood that Army codes had been invaded. He said Army and Navy codes and procedures were "completely different."

The spokesman said security precautions at the moment were normal and "We are not scanning the landscape looking for another Walker." But he said the reviewing team would try to determine whether the case was an anomaly or there were weaknesses in the system.

The Army is taking a careful, systematic approach on cutting security clearances, he said. Of the 781,000 men and women in the Army, nearly 500,000 have clearances, with 384,500 limited to the lower "secret" level; of the 383,250 civilians in the Department of the Army, 167,000 have clearances.

A spokesman for the Air Force said the group headed by General Durkin included officers in planning, intelligence operations, communications and the inspector general's office. He said they would meet Friday and request a briefing from the Navy.

The spokesman said he was not aware that any order had gone out to tighten security throughout the Air Force, though local commanders were expected to scrutinize their operations and procedures on their own initiative.